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A LIST OF THE
BUSINESS MEN
OF THE CITY OF
HARTFORD
(CONNECTICUT)
IN THE YEAR
1799

BUSINESS MEN

OF THE CITY OF

HARTFORD

(CONNECTICUT)

IN THE YEAR

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PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

WITH NOTES

BY

FRANK D. ANDREWS

VINELAND NEW JERSEY

1909

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With the Compliments of

FRANK D. ANDREWS.

PREFACE.

Believing the following list of former residents of Hartford engaged in business at the close of the eighteenth century, to be of some local interest, the manuscript has been printed with the hope it may prove useful in determining the occupation of some of the inhabitants of that period, and be of service in other ways.

Many of the names on the list are familiar to the present generation, descendants of those who more than a century ago were in the fulness of life and the activities thereof, now, perhaps forgotten by those who have profited by their industry and success.

Among the names, the reader may chance upon that of an ancestor, a relative far removed; give them a kindly thought in passing, and remember a century hence their own name may have been long forgotten, even unknown, save to some antiquary delving among the records of the past.

FRANK D. ANDREWS.

Vineland, N. J.

March 3, 1909.



HARTFORD BUSINESS MEN 1799

WITH THE AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT OF EACH
PERSON OR FIRM

		Dolr.
James Anderson	Joyner	17
Saml. Addams	Cabinet maker	20
Willm. Burr	Trader	84
Eli Batholomew	Do	84
John Bolles	Taverner	50
Isaac Bull	Trader & Druggist	84
Isaac D Bull	Do	84
Aaron Bradley	Taverner	50
William Bradley	Trader	84
Thomas Belden	Do	84
Francis Brown & Co	Do	100
John Bolles 2d	Baker	17
Josiah Beckwith	Cooper	30
Richard Bacon & Co	Traders	100
Joseph Burr	Do	84
Jona. Brace	Attorney	180

William Brown	Attorney	180
Mary Barnard	Taverner	50
Timothy Burr & Co	Traders	84
John Babcock	Printer	40
Consider Burt	Mill Owner	200
Bull & King	Traders	100
David Bull	Taverner	50
Michael & Thos. Bull	Traders	200
Blake & Ely	Do	100
Saml. Beckwith	Cooper	25
William Brown 2d	Trader in Co	84
Joseph Bradley	Blk. Smith	25
William Barton Jr.	Trader	100
Brown & Kimberly	Do	100
Asa Boyd	Barber	17
Elisha Beckwith	Blk Smith	25
Abel Buel	White Smith	20
Jonathan Bright	Upholsterer	25
Aaron Colton	Cabinet Maker	25
James Church	Rope Maker	40
James Cooke	Do	30
Asher Church	Taylor	17
Roger Cogswell	Taverner	50
Aaron Colton	Cabinet Maker	25
John Chenevard & Co	Merchants	100
Asa Corning	Shoemaker	17
Ezra Corning	Shopkeeper	84
Daniel Corning	Taverner	50
Silas Chapman	Shoemaker	20
Daniel Crowell	Trader	100

HARTFORD BUSINESS MEN 1799

7

Mason F Cogswell	Physician	70
George Caldwell	Hatter	39
Oliver D & I Cooke	Booksellers	84
John Caldwell & Co	Merchants	200
George Corning	Taylor	17
George Catlin	Instrument Maker	20
Saml. C Day	Barber	20
Theodore Dwight	Attorney	200
Willm. Davy	Brewer	25
Edward Danforth	Trader	84
Jona. & Danl. Danforth	Dos	90
Henry Devier	Bookbinder	84
Enos Doolittle	Brass Founder	17
Saml. Danforth	Pewterer	25
William Ellery	Mill Owner	75
Jona. W Edwards	Attorney	167
William Ely & Co	Traders	100
William Chadwick	Shoemaker	20
Robert Chapman	Fruiterer	30
Miller Fish	Shoemaker	25
Eliakim Fish	Physician	60
Edward Frethy	Barber	17
Timothy Foster	Mason	17
Chauncy Goodrich	Attorney	180
George Goodwin	Printer Bookseller	125
Gleason & Cowles	Merchants	150
David Greenleaf	Watchmaker	45
John Graham	Painter & Glazier	20
James Goodwin	Hatter	17
Jona. Goodwin	Taverner	50

Richard Goodman	Trader	84
David Goodwin	Taylor	25
Aaron Gaylord	Trader	84
Asa & Daniel Hopkins	Druggists	125
Joseph Hart	Merchant	150
Leml. Hopkins	Physician	60
Charles Hepuembourgh	Barber	17
James Hosmer	Taylor	30
Henry Hall	Merchant	84
John Hall	Trader	84
Joseph Hanson	Taylor	17
John Hamilton	Taverner	50
William Howe	Trader	84
Joseph Harris	Pump Maker	17
James Hammer	Cooper	17
Willm. Hildrup	Trader	84
Daniel Jones	Merchant	100
Shadrack Johnson	Ships Carpenter	17
Keys & Center	Traders	120
Leonard Kenneda	Joyner	20
Freeman Kilbourn	Dealer in horses	84
James Knox in Co	Traders	84
George Knox	Cooper	17
Joseph Lynde	Druggist	120
William Lawrence	Trader	100
Saml. Lawrence	Do	84
Justin Lyman	Do	100
Elisha Lewis	Do	120
James Lathrop	Mason	20
John Lee	Board'g House & Trader	50

John Leffinwell	Joyner	17
John Morgan	Merchant	200
Danl. Moore	Trader	84
Ebenezer Moore	Saidler	20
Saml. Marsh Jur.	Mercht	100
William Moseley	Attorney	200
Dwell Morgan	Surgeon	40
John Mc Nieght	Chandler	30
John Mc Crackan	Mercht	120
Charles Mather	Physician	34
Zachy Mills & Co	Paper Stainers	20
Abijah Peck	Blk Smith	25
Solomon Porter	Trader	100
Nathl. Patten	Do	150
Joseph Pratt	Taverner	70
George Pierce	Trader	84
Caleb Pond	Do	84
George J Patten	Do	84
Ephraim Root	Attorney	200
John Ripley	Taverner	70
Jona. Ramsey	Dealer in Horses	40
Jona. Root	Taylor	17
Ephm. Robbins	Taverner	50
Ripley Savage & Co	Traders	120
Charles Seymour & Co	Do	84
Thos. Seymour	Mill Owner	50
Thos. Sanford	Taverner	50
Thos. Sanford Jur.	Trader	100
Horace Steel	Bookbinder	17
Alba Smith	Shoemaker	17

Thomas Steel	Tanner	20
George Seymour	Taverner	60
Elisha Shepherd	Trader	84
Robert Seymour	Taylor	17
Elisha Skinner	Taverner	50
Roswell Stanley	Trader	84
Isaac Sweetland	Stone Cutter	25
Jacob Sargeant	Jeweller	60
Elipt. Steel	Taverner	50
Thos. Sloan	Blk Smith	20
Norman Smith	Saidler	39
Wm. Starr Jur.	Blockmaker	17
Charles D Stillwell	Taylor	17
John Spencer	Barber	17
Friend Seymour	Braiser	20
Solomon Taylor	Joyner	20
Saml. Thompson	Baker	17
Peter Thatcher	Joyner	17
Nathl. Terry	Attorney	200
Elipt. Terry Jur	Trader	84
Joseph Utley	Trader Taverner	120
Joseph Utley 2d	Tanner	20
Henry Wadsworth	Cooper	17
Horace Wadsworth	Chair Maker	10
John Wadsworth	Do in Co.	10
Daniel Wadsworth	Mercht.	100
James Weeks	Cooper	17
Jared Wells	Blk Smith	17
William Wing	Coach Maker	30
Benja. Wood	Joyner	20

William Weare	Sail Maker.	17
Daniel Winship	Baker	17
Spencer Whiting & Co	Traders	120
James Ward	Jeweller	40
Elisha Williams	Taverner	60
Ward Woodbridge & Co	Traders	140
James H Wells	Merchant	90
Thomas Wells	Hatter	17
James A Wells	Taverner	50
Robert Mc Henry	Saidler	20
William Watson	Trader	84
So.		
Amos Bull	Merchant	100
Brazillai Hudson	Printer & Bookseller	125
Elisha Babcock	Printer	25.
Abel Saunders	Taverner	50
Jona. Bigelow	Do	50
Moses Butler	Do	50
Frederick Seymour	Trader	84
Jona. Butler	Tanner	30
Jona. Skinner	Do	30
Isaac Bliss	Do	40
Miles Beach	Jeweller	30
Abiel Thompson	Shoemaker	17
Nathl. Winship	Mason	17
Joseph Winship	Do	17
Phineas Shepherd	Do	17
William Boardman	Do	17
Asa Francis	Blk Smith	50
Jona. Chapman	Carpenter	17

John Williams	Shoemaker	25
Thos. Y Seymour	Attorney	167
Enoch Perkins	Do	167
Willm. Whitman	Druggist	84
Calvin Seymour	Joyner	27
Danl. Butler	Mill Owner	60
Henry A Warner	Skin dresser	40
Charles Merrill	Taverner	50
John Dodd Jur.	Trader	150
Luke Diggins	Blk Smith	17
Solomon Loomis	Mtillwrigh	17
John C Bull	Painter	17
Jona. Bull	Do	17
Zebulon Seymour	Joyner	17
Reuben Wadsworth	Half Clothiers Works	10
James Taylor	Do	10
William Hills	Taylor	25
Harris Colt	Trader	84
Tisdale & Nicholls	Chandlers	40
Stephen Collins	Shoemaker	
John I Wells	Cabinet Maker	30
West—		
Gideon Butler	Wheelwright	25
John B Balch	Joyner	17
Abijah Flagg	Shoemaker	35
Peleg Heath	Taverner	50
Caleb Perkins	Physician	34
Abel Butler	Wheelwright	17
Theron Seymour	Blk Smith	30
Wm. Sedgwick	Do	17

HARTFORD BUSINESS MEN 1799 13

John Selden	Potter	17
David Butler	Wheelwright	20
Ebenezer Faxon	Potter	60
Nathl. Seymour	Do	20
John Seymour Jur	Do	17
Josiah Gilbert	Joyner	17
Leml. Hurlbut	Shoemaker	25
Jed. Mills	Do	25
Elias Frink	Do	30
Allyn Seymour	Blk Smith	20
Timothy Sedgwick	Do	30
Charles Seymour	Hatter	30
Elijah Boardman	Taverner	50
Francis Smith	Tanner	30
Saml. Talcott	Clothier	30
Francis F Olmsted	Saidler	17
Reuben Judd	Cooper	17
Amount—		\$ 13,942

Erratum.

On page fifth read Leml. Addams, instead of
Saml. Addams.

NOTES

In the year 1799, Hartford incorporated as a city in 1784, had a population of about 5,000 inhabitants. Its one long street running parallel with the Connecticut was crossed by others leading from the river to the farm lands west.

Among the five or six hundred houses within its limits were a number of substantial dwellings, some of brick, the homes of well-to-do citizens

The State House, recently erected, was an object of pride and admiration. The legislature first met within its walls in 1796, Hartford sharing with New Haven the honor of being one of the capitals of the state.

The meeting house of the First Society, built of brick, stood on the southeast corner of the burial ground. Rev. Nathan Strong, a graduate of Yale College in 1769, was the pastor. The Second Society's meeting house was of wood located south of the "Great Bridge" which crossed the Little River. The society was under the pastoral charge of Rev. Abel Flint, Yale 1785.

The large brick jail with tavern attached, a distillery, a bank with a capital of \$100,000 and numerous shops well stocked gave the place the appearance of a thriving community.

The river was the means of communication with the sea ports along the coast, West Indies and more distant countries; the merchants and traders owning vessels which carried the products of field and forest to these ports, returning with specie, rum, molasses and manufactured articles.

The financial depression following the Revolution was succeeded by a revival of business, the merchants and shopkeepers then laying the foundation for the commercial supremacy Hartford has since maintained.

Its wealthy citizens were seeking investment in western and southern lands, in insurance and underwriting, the beginning of that great and prosperous business which has made Hartford famous.

A brief review of some of the names appearing on the preceeding pages may not be without interest to the present generation.

Among the prominent merchants at the close of the century were John Caldwell, an extensive ship owner whose memory is not yet passed from the mind of man; John Chenevard who left a fortune of \$30,000 at his death in 1805; John Morgan, a graduate of Yale in 1772, whose ship the "Empress of China" was the first American vessel to establish trade with the "flowery kingdom." The construction of the bridge across the Connecticut was due to his wealth and enterprise, and Morgan street was named for him.

Daniel Wadsworth was one of the younger mer-

chants, living in 1799 in the elegant new mansion still standing on Prospect street. He was the son of Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth, and is remembered as the founder of the Athenaeum.

A number of traders in the list became known in the nineteenth century as prominent and reliable business men whose descendants have forsaken the ways of their fathers and find other employment more congenial.

The law was represented by an exceptional fine body of men—men of reputation and standing. Chauncey Goodrich, one of the most prominent members of the bar, was then a Member of Congress. Graduating at Yale College in 1776, he settled in Hartford in 1781. He became United States Senator, was lieutenant governor of the state and mayor of the city.

Theodore Dwight, whose name appears among the Attorneys, was at one time a law partner of Aaron Burr. He represented Connecticut in Congress. As one of the "Hartford Wits" he will be long remembered. He was secretary of the Hartford Convention and a leading editor and journalist.

Jonathan Brace, Yale 1779, was a Member of Congress, a judge, and mayor of the city.

Jonathan W. Edwards, another of Yale's distinguished sons, attained high rank in his profession.

Nathaniel Terry held various offices in the gift

of the people, including a seat in Congress. He graduated at Yale College in 1786.

Thomas Y. Seymour, like his father and grandfather was a graduate of Yale. He served in the war of the Revolution, holding the rank of major.

Enoch Perkins, Ephraim Root and William Moseley were also men of liberal education, graduates of that famous institution of whose record Connecticut is justly proud.

The medical profession in 1799 was represented by half a dozen practitioners. Dr. Mason F. Cogswell and Dr. Lemuel Hopkins are best known to fame, the former, a graduate of Yale, settled in Hartford where after boarding in the family of John Chenevard, the merchant, for a number of years he married April 13, 1800, Mary Austin Ledyard. It was largely through Dr. Cogswell's influence the Deaf and Dumb Asylum was established, their daughter, Alice, being the first pupil.

Lemuel Hopkins was one of the "Hartford Wits" and a well known poet. He was an advocate of bleeding like the old time doctors and died in 1801 from repeated bleedings to avert an expected attack of pulmonary disorder.

Eliakim Fish was a graduate of Yale College in the class of 1760 Charles Mather in 1763.

Dr. Dwell Morgan, born October 26, 1764, lived to the age of 74, prominent in his profession.

The increase in the number of physicians in one hundred years was more than double the in-

crease in population.

In 1799, the drug habit, so prevalent to day, was evidently in its infancy, four druggists supplying the inhabitants, where more than fifty found support a century later.

Two newspapers were published weekly, the "Courant" by Hudson & Goodwin, who were also booksellers, and the "Mercury" by Major Elisha Babcock. Oliver D and I. Cooke carried an extensive stock of books and stationery.

Lemuel Addams, cabinet maker, located on the south side of Ferry street, had the reputation of making good and substantial furniture.

It would seem at first thought, Hartford was well supplied with taverns, the names of twenty four taverners appearing on the list, and one a woman. When, however, it is remembered the tavern was a news centre and the liquid refreshment there served was in great demand, it is not unlikely with the entertainment of travellers they were well supported.

In those days the amount of business done, as a rule, was inconsiderable compared with present standards, people generally being content with a moderate income.

Probably but few of the business men on the foregoing list had many men in their employ, an apprentice or two learning the trade, may have constituted the entire force of the establishment.

Some occupations have an unfamiliar sound to

modern ears; as pewterer, whose wares were being rapidly supplanted by the importation of china and crockery ware, half-clothier works, skin-dresser and whitesmith.

The mayor of the city, Col. Thomas Seymour, who was also a lawyer, was listed as a mill owner; he held the office from 1784 to 1812. His home was on Main street south of Little River.

Great changes were made in Hartford during the nineteenth century, greater still will be the changes of the twentieth, as the opening years clearly indicate.

The names of the inhabitants of Hartford, the business men of 1899, with their place of business are recorded in the directory of that year. With no such exactness can the residents a century earlier be located, possibly, no particular service would be rendered if they were. An idle curiosity may be gratified by giving the names of those on the east side of Main street, from Little River to the State House, as found on an old document in the writers possession, dated 1799.

Rosl. Stanley, Chs. Shepherd, Jas. Caldwell, Jona. Brace, J. K. Gurnsey, Asa Hopkins, Chy. Gleason, Jere. Wadsworth, Asa Boyd, Thos. Lloyd, Wm. Howe, J. Mc Crackan, Nathl. Patten, Abel Buell, Theo. Hopkins, Wm Chadwick, Thos Hopkins, Jno. Chenevard, M. F. Cogswell, Saml. Olcott, Michl. Chenevard, Hez. Merrill, Ben. Biglow and Jno. Caldwell.

The same document contains the following:

State Street, So. side.

G. I. Patten, Geo. Caldwell, Saml. C. Camp,
Wm. Davy, Jno. Chenevard, Jun., Chy. Goodrich
Jno. Lee, Rowland Lee, Este. Eb. Barnard,
Chs. Mather, Jos. Church, Thos. Bull, Jas. Bull,
Nathl. Jones.

Ferry st. so. side.

Jno. Hall, Leml. Addams, Robt. Chapman, Josi-
ah Beckwith, Eli Bartholomew, Jno. Cables, est.
Elisha Williams, Russell Bunce.

Water Street.

Joseph Hanson, Francis Brown, Isaac Swetland,
Wm. Brown, Bars. Chipman, Josha. Miller,
Jno. Ackley, Jas. Bigelow, Wm. Weare,
Jared Wells, Caleb Tuttle, Loomis Hayden,
Giles Edgerton, Jno. Suitor, Jno. Wells,
Jno. Wells Jun.

Front St.

Josha. Leffingwell, Asa Benton, Wm. Skinner,
Elisha Skinner, Jno. Jeffery, Geo. Pierce,
Isaac Mason, Josiah Chapin, Spencer Whiting,
Jesse Deane, Saml. C. Day, Nathl. Blake
Jabez Perkins, Eli Ely, Jno. Leffingwell,
Nat Terry, Danl. Wadsworth, Wm. Haskell,
Elias Morgan.

School St.

Jos. Hart, Thos. Seymour & Sons, Wm. Ellery.
Uriah Shepherd, Ashbel Shepherd, Timy. Porter.
Elisha Shepherd, Jas. Shepherd, Freeman

Shepherd, Cousider Burt, Timy. Shepherd,
 Geo. Seymour, Geo. Burnham, Saml. Thomson,
 Robt. Seymour, Bela Burt, Ben. Wood, Isaac
 Sanford, Wm. Wadsworth, Peter Thatcher,
 Jona. Crosby, Jere. Barrett, Parson Greenwood,
 Jno. Wolf, Wm. Waters, Jas. Henry. Chas.
 Waterman, Jos. Giut, Danl. Andruss, Danl.
 Hancock, Cyprn, Nicholls, Solomon Taylor,
 Wm. Wetmore, Ephm. Robbins, Timy. Bunce,
 Dweell Morgan,

Main St. No
 Roger Cogswell, Ephm. Root, A. Wells, Jun.
 Jas. Hosmer, Ward Woodbridge, Jos. Lynde,
 Jos. Jeason, Friend Seymour, Elisha Lewis,
 Jno. Mc. Neight, O. D. Cooke, Increase Cooke,
 Danl. Hopkins, Enos Doolittle, Jas. Ward,
 Elias Cowles, Jno. Babcock, Jno. Thomas Estate,
 Jas. Thomas, Miller Fish, John Rogers.

A list of 1799 is inserted for comparison with
 the present.

Thos. Seymour & Sons. List Augt, 20, 1799.

3 Heads		60		180.
2 Oxen		10		20.
5 Cows	7	35.	1 Heifer 2 yrs	3.34
2 Horses		10		20
5 Acres plowing		1,67		8,35
19 do mowing		1,34		25.66
2 do Bog not mowed		34		68
18 do meadow fallow & bog out		2,50		47.
66 Bush pasture		34		22,44
1 Watch	17.	50 oz plate	6	3.34
2 first fires \$ 5.	3	third do	63	1,89
				<u>389.70</u>

Dwellings in good repair were assessed at \$2,50 a fire-place. In the preceeding, two are in the first and three in the third class; amounting to \$6,89, a very moderate valuation for a house.

In the following another form is used.

Charles Mather's List for the Year 1798.

One House 5 Smokes.

One Yoak of Cattle.

3 Cows.

One Horse.

Although the decimal system of notation, with the dollar as the unit, was established by Congress 1785-1786, it did not come into general use for many years, and bills were made out according to the English method of reckoning, by pounds, shillings, and pence.

One of Mayor Seymour's lists made out in this form is here introduced.

Thomas Seymour Esqrs List, August 20th 1787.

Two Heads his own & Son Henry	18	£36	0	0
4 Oxen at 60 s.	6 Cows at 40 s.		24	0 0
1 3 yr Old Steer	40 s.	2 2 yrs old Do	20 s.	4 0 0
4 Horses	60 s.	1 Gray Colt	2 yrs.	40 s. 14 0 0
Meadow Land	26½ Acres	15 s.	21	0 3
Unenclosed Land	33 Do	6 p	0	16 6
Upland Pasture & mowing	147 Acres			
including house lotts.		8 s.	58	16 0
Bush Pasture	61½ Acres	2 s.	6	5 0

Upland Plowing 11 Do	10 s.	5	10	0
1 Watch 100 s. Clock 60 s.		8	0	0
60 Oz. Plate at pr Ct.	6 s 8	1	4	0
1 1/2 Houses with 6 1/2 fire places	15 s.	4	17	6
1 Chaise 100 s. 1 Sulkey 60 s.		8	0	0
		£192	9	3
Deduct for 12 Sheep Sheared 4 s.		2	8	0
		£190	1	3

On the same sheet is the following;

Wm. & E Seymours List.

One head Edwards		£18	0	0
One Colt—3 years	60 s.	3	0	0
Store not used or Leased this year		00	0	0
Saw mill not used this year only				
a little for the Town		00	0	0
Sloop of 60 Tons—sailed 4th July				
for coast West Indies ordered				
to be sold, if not will render				
an accot. afterwards.		00	0	0

OCT 8 1910

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